

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00510 151359Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 ACDA-07 NSC-05
NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /046 W
-----151756Z 039731 /41
R 151215Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1098

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0510

LIMDIS

FOR ASST. SEC. HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, FI
SUBJECT: POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) HELSINKI 426, (B) STATE 50744

1. I CONTINUE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS ADVANTAGE IN CONDUCTING
POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS WITH FINNS AFTER KOSYGIN HERE MARCH
22-26 AND PRIOR KEKKONEN STATE VISIT TO USSR WHICH WE NOW
UNDERSTAND WILL TAKE PLACE AT END OF MAY. CONSULTATIONS WILL
BE USEFUL FOR THEMSELVES BUT IF TIMED BETWEEN TWO FOREGOING
VISITS, WE MIGHT NOT ONLY HOPE STRENGTHEN KEKKONEN'S HAND IN
MOSCOW BUT ALSO GET GOOD INSIGHT INTO ATMOSPHERE OF KOSYGIN
VISIT.

2. WHILE KOSYGIN VISIT EXPECTED BE PRIMARILY ECONOMIC IN
FOCUS, EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL INDIRECT INDICATIONS THAT
THE FINNISH SIDE MAY RAISE SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUES WITH
KOSYGIN, PARTICULARLY ALLEGED CONCERN BY PRES. KEKKONEN AND THE
GOF THAT THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP IS INTERPRETING TOO STRICTLY
THE SCOPE FOR FINNISH NEUTRALITY CONSISTENT WITH THE 1948
SOVIET-FINNISH FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE
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TREATY.

3. I WOULD LIKE ACCEPT OFFER IN REF B PARA 4 TO PROVIDE
MATERIAL FROM WASHINGTON USEFUL FOR BRIEFING FINNS PRIOR
TO KEKKONEN TRIP. SPECIFICALLY, I REQUEST EMBASSY BE
SENT, AFTER SECRETARY'S TRIP TO MOSCOW, MATERIAL ON SALT
WHICH COULD BE GIVEN MFA IN POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS.

GOF INTEREST IN SALT, WHICH FINNS HELPED INITIATE, IS
CLEARLY HIGH. WE WOULD NOT EXPECT TO BE ABLE TELL FINNS
AS MUCH AS IS PASSED TO NATO ALLIES, BUT TO HAVE EFFECT
WE DESIRE WITH FINNS, WE WOULD CERTAINLY NEED MORE BACK-
GROUND INFO TO PASS ON THAN WOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM PRESS,
WIRELESS FILE, OR OTHER SUCH SOURCES.

4. PLEASE ADVISE.
AUSTAD

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Message Attributes

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